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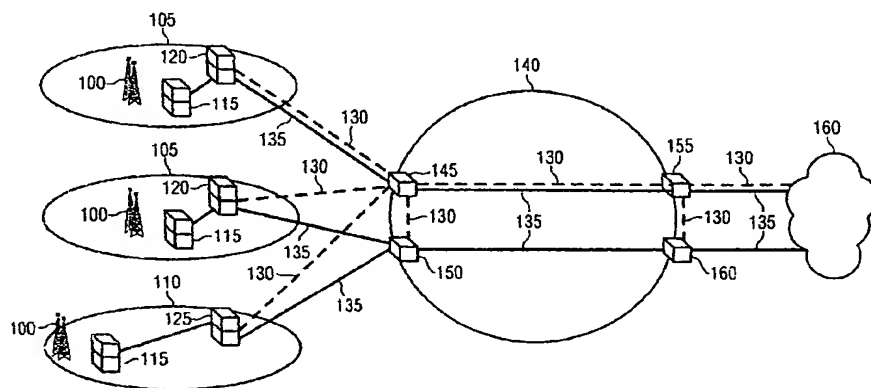
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(54) Title: OPERATION OF A SWITCHING NODE IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK COMPRISING BOTH A LAYERED AND A NON-LAYERED ARCHITECTURAL ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method for operating a switching node of a communications network, wherein the communications network comprises a layered architectural environment and a non-layered architectural environment. The switching node provides processing capabilities for the processing of communications services both within the layered and the non-layered architectural environment. The method comprises the steps of receiving a communication service request, determining according to at least one predetermined rule as an operation mode, whether the switching node is going to act for a processing of the requested communication service as a switching node of the layered architectural environment or as a switching node of the non-layered architectural environment, and processing the requested communications service in accordance with the determined operation mode of the switching node. The invention relates further to a corresponding network node, communications system and computer program.